

# Benjamin Cox Research Project

By Diana Elder

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## OBJECTIVE

The objective of this research project was to prove the hypothesized relationship of Benjamin Cox as the father of Rachel Cox through DNA evidence and traditional genealogy research. Benjamin Cox was born about 1791 in Ohio and died between 1870 and 1880 in Bell County, Texas. Rachel Cox was born about 1828 in Indiana and died between 1870 and 1880 in Falls County, Texas. Rachel married Hickman Monroe Shults on 4 July 1848 in Navarro County, Texas.

## LIMITATIONS

DNA matches discovered through Ancestry DNA ThruLines were used for this research project. Ancestry DNA does not provide a chromosome browser, so the majority of the DNA comparison was done through pedigree triangulation. Segment data was made available by three of the DNA matches with one DNA match declining to upload to another website. All four of these matches, however, shared their Ancestry DNA matches so comparisons could be made.

## RESULTS SUMMARY

- Created a table showing the indirect evidence connecting Benjamin Cox and Rachel Cox.
- Researched the history of Flat Rock, Delaware County, Indiana, the location of Benjamin Cox in the 1820 census. Discovered Flat Rock township became part of Bartholomew County in 1821.
- Located land patents for a Benjamin Cox in several Indiana counties. Determined Jackson County was a likely locality for a land patent for Benjamin Cox based on his associates in the same area and proximity to Flat Rock township.

- Correlated the 1830 census listing for Benjamin Cox of Monroe County, Indiana, and the marriage records of daughters of Benjamin Cox in neighboring Bartholomew County, Indiana.
- Concluded the records for Benjamin Cox of Flat Rock Township, Jackson County, and Monroe County, were for the same individual.
- Created a Lucid Chart showing the DNA matches for descendants of Benjamin Cox.
- Built a descendency tree for Benjamin Cox including his proposed six children with DNA matches on Ancestry DNA ThruLines: Amy, Lavina, Sarah, Minerva, Rachel, and William Thomas Cox.
- Correlated the records for each of the children of Benjamin Cox. Discovered common localities and migration paths among the six children and Benjamin Cox.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A previous research project detailed the records for Rachel and Benjamin Cox that showed indirect evidence of a parent-child relationship.<sup>1</sup> The following table summarizes the findings.

**Table 1. Correlation of Life Events for Benjamin and Rachel Cox**

DATE	EVENT	LOCALITY	DETAILS
1791 & 1792	Birth of Benjamin Cox <sup>a</sup>	Ohio/Tennessee	U.S. Federal census records for Benjamin Cox from 1840-1870 agree on a calculated birth year of 1791 or 1792. The birthplace is mentioned only in 1860 (Ohio) and 1870 (Tennessee).
1813	Marriage of Benjamin Cox and Caizar Barbee <sup>b</sup>	Ross County, Ohio	The marriage took place on 10 April 1813. Also of interest is the marriage in the same county of Harley Barbee and Rachel Cox on 4 June 1812.
1817-1819	Tax List <sup>c</sup>	Ross County, Ohio	Benjamin Cox was taxed for his property in Jefferson Township, Range 20 Township 8 35 SW. No water course was given, and the original proprietor was John Graves. Also taxed for property in that same location was John Cox, a possible relative.
1820	Census <sup>d</sup>	Flat Rock, Delaware County, Indiana	Of the several Benjamin Cox entries in this census, the presence of Daniel and Olliff Barbee in this location makes this the most likely location.
1827 & 1829	Birth of Rachel Cox <sup>e</sup>	Indiana	The only located census enumerations for Rachel are 1850 and 1870. Both agree on a birthplace of

<sup>1</sup> Diana Elder, "Benjamin Cox Research Project," 11 June 2019; PDF version of the report viewable at *Family Locket* (<https://familyloket.com/writing-a-research-report-on-a-dna-research-project/>; accessed 10 November 2019).

			Indiana.
1830	Census <sup>f</sup>	Monroe County, Indiana	The household of Benjamin Cox has a female under 5 who could be Rachel.
1837	Marriage of Benjamin Cox and Elizabeth Sutton <sup>g</sup>	Izard County, Arkansas	Benjamin Cox & Elizabeth Sutton; George Gill of Independence County, Arkansas, Baptist preacher certifies that on 4 October 1837, he solemnized the rights of matrimony between the couple, both of Izard County; Filed and recorded 12 October 1837
1840	Census <sup>h</sup>	Blue Mountain, Izard County, Arkansas	The household of Benjamin Cox lists 3 females age 10 thru 14, one of which could be Rachel. The entry is for Benjamin Cox & Alias – likely pointing to Suttons in the household from his marriage to Elizabeth Sutton in 1837.
1846	Tax Roll <sup>i</sup>	Navarro County, Texas	Benjamin Cox listed
1848	Road Commissioner <sup>j</sup>	Navarro County, Texas	August 1848, commissioners appointed to review and mark the portion of the road from Corsicana to the Limestone County line, intersecting the road leading to Pine Blugg: M. Shoults, Benj. Cox, Edwin Jabelick Wm. Meador, and James Jones; report given in November 1848 gives names as M. Shoults, Benj. Cox, Edmund Garlick, Wm Meador, and J.C. Jones.
1848	Marriage of Rachel Cox and Monroe Shults <sup>k</sup>	Navarro County, Texas	Navarro Co TX; marriage license issued to Monroe Shoults and Racheal Cox, 4 July 1848; returned on same day by Thomas Wood, ordained Minister, O.G.
1850	Census <sup>l</sup>	Navarro County, Texas	H M Schultz 29 farmer 320 real estate, born in Alabama Rachael Schultz 21 Indiana Wm H Schultz 1 Texas
1850	Census <sup>m</sup>	Travis County, Texas	Benjamin Cox 59 laborer unknown place of birth Elizabeth Cox 50 Tennessee Hanah Cox 19 Indiana Delila Cox 16 Indiana Tempa Cox 10 Arkansas Cyntha Cox 9 Arkansas James Sutton 17 laborer Arkansas William Sutton 15 laborer Arkansas

- a. 1840 U.S. Census, Izard County, Arkansas, population schedule, p. 192 (penned), line 20, Benjamin Cox household. 1850 U.S. Census, Travis County, Texas, population schedule, Travis, p.141A, dwelling 121, family 121, Benjamin Cox household. 1860 U.S. Census, Bell County, Texas, population schedule, Belton, p.336, dwelling 433, family 541, Benjamin Cox household. 1870 U.S. Census, Bell County, Texas, population schedule, Beat 5, p.97B, dwelling 66, family 66, Benjamin Cox household.
- b. "Ohio, County Marriages, 1798-1951," Vol A-B, Ross County, p. 105, Benjamin Cox - Caizar Barbee, marriage, 1813, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>: 16 April 2019), FHL microfilm 281, 637, image 57 of 287. "Ohio, County Marriages, 1798-1951," Vol A-B, Ross County, Harley Barbee - Rachel Cox marriage, 1812, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org>: 16 April 2019), FHL microfilm 281, 637, image 140 of 352.
- c. Ross County, Ohio, "Tax Duplicates, 1808, 1810, 1816-1819," 1156: 48, 1817, 1157:53, 1818, 1158: 73, 1819, Benjamin Cox, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 May 2019), FHL microfilm 528,391, images 366, 493, 664.
- d. 1820 U.S. Census, Delaware County, Indiana, population schedule, Flat Rock, p.22 (penned), line 60, Benjamin B

Cox household.

- e. 1850 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Navarro, p.103B, dwelling 7, family 7, H.M. Schultz household. 1870 U.S. Census, Falls County, Texas, population schedule, Precinct 5, p.113A, dwelling 249, family 244, Monroe Schultz household.
- f. 1830 U.S. Census, Monroe County, Indiana, population schedule, p. 170 (penned), line 2, Benjamin Cox household.
- g. Independence County, Arkansas, "Marriage records, 1826-1867," Cox-Sutton, 1837, p. 49; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 1 Apr 2019); FHL microfilm 1,288,645, image 37 of 532.
- h. 1840 U.S. Census, IZard County, Arkansas, population schedule, Blue Mountain, p. 192 (penned), line 22, Benjamin Cox household.
- i. "Texas, Compiled Census and Census Substitutes Index, 1820-1890," Benjamin Cox, Navarro County, 1846, not paginated, indexed record only, *Ancestry* (<https://ancestry.com> : accessed 1 Apr 2019).
- j. Nancy Timmons Samuels and Barbara Roach Knox, *Old Northwest Texas : Historical, Statistical, Biographical* (Fort Worth, Texas : Fort Worth Genealogical Society, 1980), 110.
- k. Navarro County, Texas, "Marriage Records Vol A 1-3 1846-1880," pp. 9-10, Shults-Cox marriage, 1848; digital images, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 2 April 2019); digitized film number 007255691, images 14- 15 of 801.
- l. 1850 U.S. Census, Navarro County, Texas, population schedule, Navarro, p.103B, dwelling 7, family 7, H.M. Schultz household.
- m. 1850 U.S. Census, Travis County, Texas, population schedule, Travis, p.141A, dwelling 121, family 121, Benjamin Cox household.

## Benjamin Cox in Indiana

Research for this session commenced with examining the records of Delaware County, Indiana, the probable location of Benjamin Cox on the 1820 census.<sup>2</sup> As noted in Table 1, Benjamin Cox was present in the tax lists of Jefferson Township, Ross County, Ohio, until 1819. The 1820 tax list, however, does not show a Benjamin Cox providing evidence that he had likely moved from the area by 1820.<sup>3</sup>

The treaty of St. Mary's of 3 October 1818 ceded Delaware Indian land to the United States federal government.<sup>4</sup> The Delaware's were given three years to prepare for departure and with their removal to lands west of the Mississippi, white settlers began moving into the area. Delaware County was formed in 1827 from these lands, encompassing the drainage basin of the White River.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> 1820 U.S. Census, Delaware County, Indiana, population schedule, Flat Rock, p.22 (penned), line 60, Benjamin B Cox household; digital image, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : 22 May 2019); citing NARA microfilm publication M33, roll 14.

<sup>3</sup> Ross County, Ohio, "Tax Duplicates, 1820-1824," Vol. 1159, 1820, negative search for Benjamin Cox, *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org> : accessed 27 May 2019), FHL microfilm 528,392, image 21.

<sup>4</sup> "History of Bartholomew County - Early Days," *Indiana Genealogy Trails* ([http://genealogytrails.com/ind/bartholomew/hist\\_early\\_days.html](http://genealogytrails.com/ind/bartholomew/hist_early_days.html) : accessed 3 Nov 2019).

<sup>5</sup> Wikipedia contributors, "Delaware County, Indiana," *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, ([https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Delaware\\_County,\\_Indiana&oldid=916301720](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Delaware_County,_Indiana&oldid=916301720) : accessed November 10, 2019).

If Delaware County wasn't formed until 1827, then what was the area described as Flat Rock Township, Delaware County, Indiana, where Benjamin Cox was listed on the 1820 census? The area was known as the Delaware New Purchase, shown on the following map as DNP.<sup>6</sup>

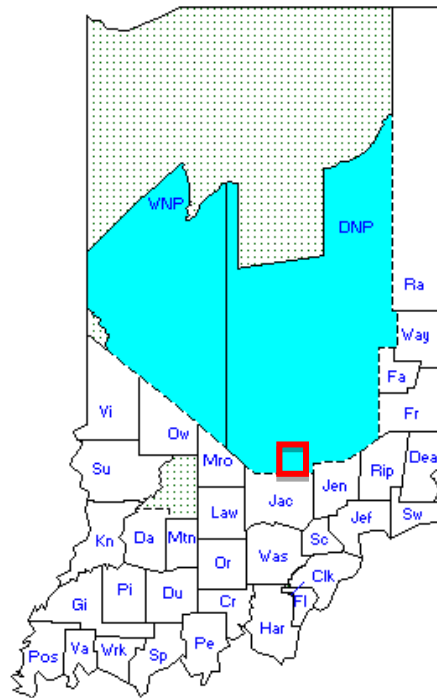


Figure 1 Indiana Counties, 1820, Delaware New Purchase (DNP) highlighted and approximate location of Flat Rock Township noted

With such a large area designated as Delaware County in the 1820 census, discovering Benjamin Cox's location in Flat Rock Township was crucial. A county history revealed the actual location of Flat Rock to be on the southern edge of the Delaware New Purchase, bordering Jackson County. It became part of Bartholomew County, which was formed on 9 January 1821.<sup>7</sup> The county history did not name Benjamin Cox as an early settler despite listing several other Cox men, probably because he didn't stay in the Flat Rock area for long.

The early settlers moved into the newly ceded lands for the purpose of obtaining a land patent from the United States federal government. To encourage western settlement, the federal government

<sup>6</sup> "Interactive Map of Indiana County Formation History," *Map of US* (<http://www.mapofus.org/indiana/> : accessed 10 November 2019).

<sup>7</sup> "History of Bartholomew County - Early Days," *Indiana Genealogy Trails* ([http://genealogytrails.com/ind/bartholomew/hist\\_early\\_days.html](http://genealogytrails.com/ind/bartholomew/hist_early_days.html) : accessed 3 Nov 2019).

required settlers to apply for a land grant and if certain conditions were met, the settler would receive a patent. The lure of new land was likely the reason Benjamin Cox moved west. A search of land patents awarded in Indiana revealed entries for a Benjamin Cox in the following counties and years: Wayne 1812, Randolph 1824, 1827, Dubois 1824, Jackson 1827, Rush 1826, Hendricks 1829, Boone 1834.<sup>8</sup>

Examining the friends, associates, and neighbors of an individual is crucial for correctly identifying an ancestor among a group of men of the same name. Family groups often moved together and the presence of Daniel Barbee and Solomon Cox in the records helps to identify the ancestral Benjamin Cox. Benjamin married Casiah Barbee in Ross County, Ohio, and Daniel Barbee could be a brother or other relative. Solomon Cox was also listed on the tax rolls of Ross County, Ohio, making him a possible relative to Benjamin Cox.

The land patent search revealed both Daniel Barbee and Solomon Cox receiving neighboring land in Bartholomew County and gives their residence as Jackson County, Indiana.<sup>9</sup> A land patent was also issued to Benjamin Cox of Jackson County, Indiana, for land in Jackson County in 1827.<sup>10</sup> These men likely were connected and further research could find additional records in Jackson County – tax, land, court, and probate.

By 1830, Benjamin Cox was a resident of Monroe County, Indiana. Again, several entries for Benjamin Cox in the 1830 census were examined and ruled out based on age or household.<sup>11</sup> Clues to the validity of Benjamin's residence of Monroe come in the marriage records of two proposed daughters of Benjamin Cox: Lavina Cox and Amy Cox.<sup>12</sup> Both women were married in Bartholomew County,

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<sup>8</sup> (Indiana), "Land Patent Search," search for Benjamin Cox, 1821-1834, images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 3 November 2019).

<sup>9</sup> (Bartholomew, Indiana), "Land Patent Search," Daniel Barbee, 1821, State Volume Patent, Doc. # 193 images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 3 November 2019). (Bartholomew, Indiana), "Land Patent Search," Solomon Cox, 1821, State Volume Patent, Doc. # 192 images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 3 November 2019).

<sup>10</sup> (Jackson, Indiana), "Land Patent Search," Benjamin Cox, 1827, State Volume Patent, Doc. # 1301, images, *General Land Office Records* ([www.glorerecords.blm.gov](http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov) : accessed 3 November 2019).

<sup>11</sup> Elder, "Benjamin Cox Research Project," 2019, see Table 5, "Census Listings for Benjamin Cox, born 1791."

<sup>12</sup> "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007," marriage license, Crouch-Cox, 4 Aug 1834, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 3 Oct 2019), Bartholomew > 1832-1837 Volume 2 > image 30 of 78; Indiana Commission on Public Records, Indianapolis. "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007," marriage license, Whitehorn-Cox, 24 September 1834, p. 65, database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 3 Oct 2019), Bartholomew > 1832-1837 Volume 2 > image 33 of 78; Indiana Commission on Public Records, Indianapolis.



Indiana, in 1834. A map of Indiana drawn in 1837 shows the proximity of the various counties of interest: Bartholomew, Monroe, and Jackson.<sup>13</sup>

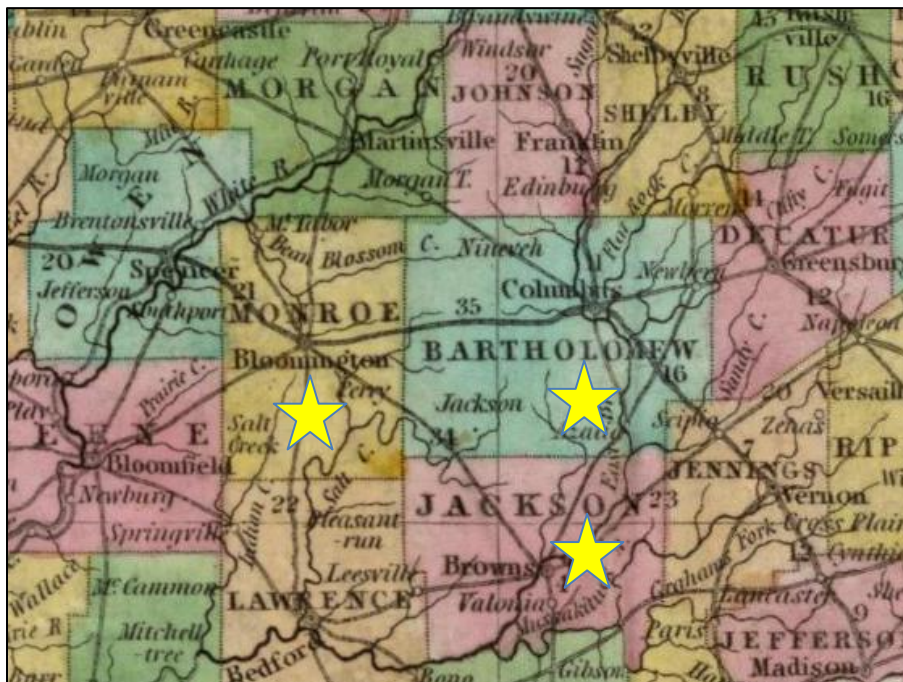


Figure 2 Map of Indiana Counties, 1837

As shown in the map, Jackson, Bartholomew, and Monroe Counties neighbor one another and it is probable that the Benjamin Cox of these locations is the same individual. The Flat Rock River noted on the northern boundary of Bartholomew shows the approximate area of the Flat Rock township where Benjamin Cox was enumerated on the 1820 census. His daughters married in Bartholomew County, and the 1827 land patent notes he was of Jackson County and was awarded land in Jackson County.

## DNA Evidence

With the ancestor Benjamin Cox likely identified in the records of Bartholomew, Jackson, and Monroe Counties of Indiana from 1820-1830, the hypothesis that Rachel Cox was his daughter was validated. He was living in Indiana during the years of her birth 1827 or 1829. Research next turned to examining DNA evidence for this relationship.

<sup>13</sup> Samuel Augustus Mitchell, "Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, And Michigan," (Philadelphia: S. August Mitchell, 1837); *David Rumsey Map Collection* (<https://www.davidrumsey.com> : accessed 10 November 2019).

Autosomal DNA matches can prove a hypothesized ancestor, so matches between the descendants of Benjamin Cox were sought. Ancestry DNA's ThruLines tool identified 71 possible matches of relatively small segments for Diana Elder through Rachel Cox.<sup>14</sup>

The previous research project had compared shared DNA between Diana Elder and M. B., a descendant of Benjamin Cox through his son William T. Cox. ThruLines showed this match as 8 cM across one segment, with the longest segment reported as 13 cM. Ancestry DNA's Timber algorithm filters out pieces of DNA that many descendants of very distant ancestors share.<sup>15</sup> This explains the difference between the longest segment and the cM reported in the match segment. With the danger of small segments being false positives, Diana Elder's kit was phased against that of her mother to create a new phased kit of only her paternal matches on GEDmatch, reducing the number of false matches. Running a one-to-one comparison using the phased paternal kit, it was found that Diana Elder's DNA matched that of M.B. on chromosome 16, 13.9 cM.<sup>16</sup>

For this phase of the research, additional DNA evidence was sought. Two cousins of Diana Elder, who also descended through Rachel Cox, shared their Ancestry DNA results and gave permission to use their names in this report. Lucretia Becker Neill is a first cousin once removed (1C1R) and one generation closer to Benjamin Cox than Diana Elder. Lucretia's ThruLines revealed 138 DNA matches through Benjamin Cox, most of them in the range of 10 – 33 cM.<sup>17</sup> A second cousin, Patricia Hoskins, showed 113 matches through Benjamin Cox, also most in the range of 10-33 cM.<sup>18</sup> Both gave their permission to use their names. An additional DNA match, D.S., had 194 DNA matches through Benjamin Cox, with a range of 6 – 41 cM.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> AncestryDNA "ThruLines for Diana Elder," matches through Benjamin Cox (1791-1880), *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2019.)

<sup>15</sup> JGRANKA, "Filtering DNA matches at AncestryDNA with Timber," posted 8 June 2015, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/corporate/blog/filtering-dna-matches-at-ancestrydna-with-timber/> : accessed 2 March 2021).

<sup>16</sup> GEDmatch Genesis, "Autosomal One-to-one DNA Comparison," *GEDmatch* (<https://www.gedmatch.com> : accessed 11 June 2019), kits nos. A279720P1 and JH3304066, 1 matching segment on Chr. 16, 13.9 cm, (start-stop points 79,519,633-84,295,943).

<sup>17</sup> AncestryDNA "ThruLines for Lucretia Becker Neill," matches through Benjamin Cox (1791-1880), *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2019.)

<sup>18</sup> AncestryDNA "ThruLines for Patricia Hoskins," matches through Benjamin Cox (1791-1880), *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2019.)

<sup>19</sup> AncestryDNA "ThruLines for D.S.," matches through Benjamin Cox (1791-1880), *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 November 2019.)



Because Ancestry DNA does not provide a chromosome browser, the shared DNA matches of the five proposed descendants of Benjamin Cox were charted.<sup>20</sup> Each descendant's path back to Benjamin Cox was outlined as well as the amount of shared DNA. Multiple matches were noted to the following proposed children of Benjamin Cox.

- Amy Cox 1813-1907, born Ohio
- Lavina Cox 1814 – 1895, born Ohio
- Sarah Cox 1816-1882, born Ohio
- Minerva Cox 1821 – 1902, born Indiana
- William Thomas Cox 1827-1912, born Indiana
- Rachel Cox 1828-1880, born Indiana

The McGuire chart associated with this project shows the amount of DNA that each test-taker shares with other probable descendants. The test-takers are anonymized and represented by colored boxes. The DNA matches are also anonymized and represented with yellow boxes. The children of Benjamin Cox are represented with green boxes and the green circles show the amount of DNA shared between the test takers and DNA matches. Next steps for the DNA research will be to verify the Thrulines suggested tree paths for each DNA match back to the proposed child of Benjamin Cox.

## Records for Children of Benjamin Cox

Research next turned to examining the traditional genealogy records for each of the children of Benjamin Cox and building a descendency tree for Benjamin Cox based on these records.<sup>21</sup> What connections could put these individuals in the correct place and time? What friends, family, and associates link them to Benjamin Cox and one another? All records referenced in the following life sketches are attached to the records of the individuals in the Benjamin Cox descendency tree.

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<sup>20</sup> Diana Elder, "Benjamin Cox DNA – McGuire Chart," 10 November 2019, *Lucidchart* (<https://www.lucidchart.com/invitations/accept/7b4a09b3-572e-4b88-b2f8-6d1829718657>).

<sup>21</sup> Public Member Trees, Shults\_Kelsey, profile for Benjamin E. Cox, *Ancestry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/58419748/person/46036325193/facts> : accessed 10 November 2019).

### **Amy Cox 1813-1907, born Ohio**

Several records reveal a birth for Amy Cox, the probable oldest child of Benjamin Cox and Casiah Barbee as 1813, 1814, 1815, or 1820. The marriage for Benjamin and Casiah took place on 10 April 1813 in Ross County, Ohio, so 1813 or 1814 would be the best fit for Amy. Her birthplace is listed consistently as Ohio in the census records. The information for each census was likely given by herself or her husband. Only her death certificate lists Indiana as a birthplace. Amy and her husband, Allen Whitehorn were married in 1834 in Bartholomew County, Indiana, and resided in Indiana their entire lives. The marriage in Bartholomew County, Indiana, was near to the 1820 and 1830 census records and 1827 land patent locations for Benjamin Cox.

Amy (Cox) Whitehorn died 17 December 1907 in Jackson County, Indiana, and her death certificate states her father as Benjamin Cox born in Ohio and her mother as unknown, also born in Ohio. The informant for the parent information was Jacob Eddy, her son-in-law. This direct evidence combined with the proximity of her marriage in Bartholomew County, Indiana, to Benjamin Cox's location in the area provides excellent connections.

### **Lavina Cox 1814 – 1895, born Ohio**

According to census records, Lavina Cox was born in 1814 or 1821 in Indiana. She married John Crouch on 4 August 1834 in Bartholomew County, Indiana, just six weeks before the marriage of her sister, Amy Cox to Allen Whitehorn. A birth year of 1821 would put her age at marriage at 13, which is improbable. She was probably born about 1814 and in Ohio. She would have had no memory of her father's years in Ohio, so likely associated Indiana with her birth. Lavina and John Crouch migrated to Blue Mountain, IZARD County, Arkansas, and are listed six households away from Benjamin Cox on the 1840 census. John had died by 1850 and Lavina Crouch is listed as the head of household, the family still residing in IZARD County, Arkansas. The oldest boy in the household is named Benjamin Crouch, likely for her father, Benjamin Cox.

In 1853, Lavina married Lawson H. Smith, and the Smith's had moved to Bell County, Texas, by 1860. The family resided in Belton, also the home of Benjamin Cox in 1860. Included in the household is Casiah Crouch, almost certainly the daughter of Lavina Cox and John Crouch, probably named for Lavina's mother, Casiah Barbee.

The naming of children Benjamin and Casiah is strong onomastic evidence of Lavina's parents as Benjamin Cox and Casiah Barbee. No further record has been found of Lavina after the 1860 census, but

her common migration of Bartholomew County, Indiana, > IZARD County, Arkansas > Bell County, Texas provides additional indirect evidence of her connection to Benjamin Cox.

### **Sarah Cox 1816-1882, born Ohio**

The various census records of her life report Sarah's birth consistently as 1816 in Indiana. Like Lavina, she probably didn't recall living in Ohio and didn't know exactly when her family moved to Indiana. The 1820 census of Delaware County, Indiana, shows only two young females in the household, so if this is the correct census for Benjamin Cox, perhaps Sarah was born closer to 1820 and after the census enumeration.

Sarah married John Stephens about 1835 with their oldest son, William, born about 1836. The couple were enumerated in the 1840 census with their young family in Searcy County, Arkansas. Benjamin Cox was living in IZARD County, just east of Searcy. By 1850 Sarah and John had moved to IZARD County, Sylamore Township, and were just a few households away from Sarah's older sister, Lavina (Cox) Crouch.

By 1860, the Stephen's family had joined Benjamin Cox and Lavina (Cox Crouch) Smith in Belton, Bell County, Texas. The household included youngest son, Ben, perhaps named for Sarah's father Benjamin Cox. In 1870, John and Sarah were listed in the census of Searcy County, Arkansas. John died by 1880 and Sarah is found in the household of her son, James.

No further record has been found of Sarah. Many online trees have her maiden name as "Webb" instead of Cox, but the DNA evidence is conclusive that Sarah was a Cox. As mentioned previously, D.S., a direct descendant shows almost 200 DNA matches to Benjamin Cox on Ancestry DNA ThruLines.

### **Minerva Cox 1821 – 1902, born Indiana**

Minerva Cox was born 1821, 1822, 1823, or 1824, depending on the census reporting. All but one of the census enumerations give a birthplace of Indiana. The outlier is the 1860 census which states Tennessee – the same as her husband, William French.

Minerva married William French about 1844 and the couple were living in Fulton County, Arkansas, by 1850. Fulton County is located immediately north of IZARD County, where Benjamin Cox had lived from about 1835 - 1845. By 1860, Minerva and William French had joined Benjamin Cox, Sarah (Cox) & John Stephens, and Lavina (Cox Crouch) & Lawson Smith, in Belton, Bell County, Texas.

Minerva and William French moved again between census years, this time to Falls County, Texas, where Rachel (Cox) and Monroe Shults were living. The two families were listed just a few households apart. This provides additional evidence to Rachel Cox being part of the Benjamin Cox family.

By 1880, Rachel (Cox) Shults had died as had William French. Minerva was widowed and still living in Falls County, Texas, with her son-in-law, James Sutton and her daughter, Minerva (French) Sutton. The next record for Minerva is the 1900 census of Falls County, Texas, this time she is living with her son, Samuel B. French. A photo of Minerva's headstone on Find A Grave states her death as 11 September 1902 and her birth date as 11 April 1821. She is identified as the wife of Wm. French. No death certificate has been located naming her father.

The records show a migration for Minerva (Cox) French as Indiana > Arkansas > Bell County, Texas, > Falls County, Texas. These locations tie her to Benjamin Cox as well as to Rachel Cox, her younger sister.

#### **William Thomas Cox 1827-1912, born Indiana**

The only proposed son of Benjamin Cox and Casiah Barbee is William Thomas Cox. Some Ancestry family trees have the father of Casiah Barbee as William Barbee. If this is correct, William Thomas could have been named after his mother's father.

William Cox was born in 1824, 1825, 1826, 1828, or 1829 in Indiana or Ohio according to the census records. Only the 1850 census gives Ohio as a birthplace, all others state Indiana. William married Elizabeth about 1848 and they were residing in Limestone County, Texas, in 1850 with their one-year-old son, Benjamin. Perhaps this son was named after William's proposed father, Benjamin Cox. Limestone County is directly south of Navarro County, the location of Benjamin Cox from about 1846-1848. By 1860, William and Elizabeth Cox had joined several other Cox family members in Belton, Bell County, Texas.

Elizabeth died before 1865 and William married Sarah. The 1870 census reveals William and Sarah having moved back to Limestone County, Texas where they settled. The 1880 and 1900 censuses list the couple and by 1910, William was a widower in the household of his son-in-law. William Cox died 4 June 1912 in Oletha, Limestone, Texas. His death certificate states a birth date of 25 December 1827 with birthplace of Indiana. The informant, J.D. Cox was probably his son, Jefferson Davis Cox. He gave the following parent information: father, William Cox born Indiana, mother, don't know. It is likely that

the informant never knew his grandfather. Jefferson Davis Cox was born in 1861 and the family had moved to Limestone County by 1870. Benjamin Cox died between 1870 and 1880 and perhaps William Thomas Cox never spoke of his father. Also, Jefferson Davis Cox may have mistakenly written William Cox, thinking his father was named after a William.

The traditional evidence of William Thomas Cox as the son of Benjamin Cox is tenuous, but paired with the DNA evidence, the case is greatly strengthened. As previous stated, Diana Elder's DNA match, M.R., share DNA on chromosome 16. No other connections could be discovered on other ancestral lines for Elder and M.R. Additionally, Lucretia Becker Neill shared DNA with both Elder and M.R. although not on the same segments.

Benjamin Cox (1791-1870) and Casiah Barbee	
Rachel Cox (1828-1880) born Indiana	William Thomas Cox (1825-1912) born Texas
William Henderson Shults (1848-1884) born Texas	George Riley Cox (1856-1935) born Texas
William Huston Shults (1887-1956) born Texas	Nancy Bethina Cox (1879-1962) born Texas
Charles Leslie Shults (1904-1996) born Oklahoma	George Duey Elkins (1911-1987) born Texas
Bobby Gene Shults (1927-2011) born California	George Duey Elkins Jr (1937-2009) born Texas
Diana Shults Elder (living) 4C Ancestry DNA 8cM	M.R. (living) 4C Ancestry DNA 8cm

### **Rachel Cox 1828-1880, born Indiana**

Only two census records name a birth year and place for Rachel. Following her marriage in 1848 in Navarro County, Texas, she was listed on the 1850 census of that county with her new husband, Hickman Monroe Shults. Her age of 29 reveals a calculated birth year of 1829 in Indiana. The couple hasn't been located on the 1860 census, but by 1870 they were living in Falls County, Texas, a few households away from Minerva (Cox) French. The 1870 census gives a birth year of 1827 and a birthplace of Indiana for Rachel. She died by 1880, probably in Falls County, the residence of her widowed husband on that census.

Her 1848 marriage in Navarro County, Texas, and Benjamin Cox's presence in the county from 1846-1848 provide indirect evidence of a family relationship. Her birthplace of Indiana and birth year of about 1828 puts her solidly in the family of Benjamin Cox. The DNA evidence adds conclusive proof that she is the daughter of Benjamin Cox.

## CONCLUSION

This research project was very successful in identifying more information about Benjamin Cox in early Indiana records. Records for each of his proposed children pointed to a birth of between 1813 and 1829 in Ohio or Indiana. Tracing Ohio tax and marriage records then Indiana census and land records, a likely candidate for the Benjamin Cox of this record was identified. Benjamin first appeared in Ross County, Ohio, tax records of 1810. He married Casiah Barbee in 1813 in Ross County and continued to be listed in the tax records there until 1819. By 1820 he had moved his household west to the Flat Rock Township in the Delaware Indiana Cession. Flat Rock became part of Bartholomew County in 1821 and Benjamin probably received a land patent for neighboring Jackson County in 1827. By 1830, he was residing in Monroe County, Indiana.

Benjamin's oldest daughters, Amy and Lavina, married in 1834 in Bartholomew County, Indiana. Amy never left Indiana, but the remainder of Benjamin's proposed children migrated to Arkansas then to Texas. The pre-1850 census records for the household of Benjamin Cox have appropriate places for the proposed children and by 1860, nearly all the married couples are residing in Belton, Bell County, Texas. The exceptions are Amy who remained in Indiana and Rachel whose location in 1860 is unknown.

The DNA evidence showed multiple shared matches between Benjamin Cox descendants: M.R., Diana Elder, Lucretia Becker Neill, Patricia Hoskins, and D.S. Between the five descendants, matches were shown to other Cox descendants through all of the proposed Cox children, forming a strong genetic network.

Combined with documentary research which shows a similar migration from Indiana > Arkansas > Texas, the DNA evidence proves conclusively that Benjamin Cox was the father of Rachel Cox.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

- Order the original land application file from the National Archives for the Cox and Barbee land patents of Bartholomew and Jackson County, Indiana.
- Search tax, court, probate, and land records of Bartholomew and Jackson Counties for Daniel Barbee and Solomon and Benjamin Cox. Seek evidence for their connections to Benjamin Cox and Casiah Barbee.
- Verify trees of each DNA match shown on the Lucid Chart of Benjamin Cox Descendants.